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group in the shorter, wider fore wings, and the absence of any transverse lines. The type of Mr. Butler's description is in the British Museum.

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#### MEETING OF MAY 19.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History, Tuesday evening, May 19 at 8 o'clock.

In absence of the President and Vice-President, Rev. J. L. Zabriskie was elected to preside at the meeting.

The following members were present: Messrs. Barber, Brues, Davis, Joutel, Love, O'Connor, Southwick, Bueno, Zabriskie and visitors Mr. Martin and daughter.

Mr. Davis of the Field Committee reported that the next field trip would be to Fort Montgomery, N. Y., May 29 to 31. Also on June 14 the committee had arranged a field trip to Huguenot, Staten Island.

Mr. Engelhardt was elected an active member of the society on motion of Dr. Love.

On motion of Mr. Joutel the society voted to discontinue its meetings during June.

The first paper of the evening was by Mr. Zabriskie on the subject of "The Microscopical Study of the Food of *Trox unistriatus*."

Mr. Zabriskie stated that he had subjected some specimens of this beetle to the action of a weakened solution of caustic soda in order to prepare them for dissection. They had been collected some nine years ago from the carcass of a horse. On opening the stomach of these beetles he had discovered a great number of little black rod-like objects. He mounted some on a slide and examined under a microscope and after some investigation he had decided that they were the snipped-off butt ends of horse hairs. He called attention to the fact that all of the hairs which he exhibited under the microscope were snipped off in the same oblique manner.

Mr. Zabriskie also exhibited under the microscope the stalked eggs of *Xiphydria maculata*, one of the wood-boring wasps. Mr. Joutel exhibited some of the stages as well as drawings of some of the Bombycine larvæ from Japan. He called attention particularly to the difference in the larvæ at different moults.

Mr. Brues mentioned that he had collected recently an interesting wingless hymenopteron, *Isobrachium rufiventre* Ashm., at Ft. Lee, N. J., which was new to the New Jersey List of Insects.

Mr. Brues then read a paper on the subject of "The Sleeping Habits of Some Aculeate Hymenoptera."

Mr. Bueno stated that he had noticed that the *Cicindela sexguttata* which he had taken at Fort Lee, N. J., had a peculiar odor similar to that of an enraged bee. He also exhibited a number of live *Plea striola* taken at Van Cortlandt Park.

Mr. Davis then made some remarks about the early collection of certain butterflies as evidence of the early spring of 1903. He had taken *Lycana pseudargiolus* on Staten Island, March 28. On two previous years the butterfly has been observed

as early as April 2, but its first appearance is usually about the middle of April. The full-grown caterpillar of *Phyciodes tharos* was taken at Richmond, Staten Island, on March 29. It pupated quickly and the butterfly hatched on April 20.

Mr. Scudder says that in "Massachusetts these caterpillars are full fed by the middle of May."

Mr. Davis also related an interesting experience which he had with the large red and black ant (*Formica rufa*) at Paterson, N. J. The ants when disturbed had a peculiar way of standing erect on their second and third pair of legs, and then turning the abdomen forward and upwards they squirted a considerable spray of formic acid at their tormentors. \*

Mr. Barber exhibited a number of specimens of Coleoptera to show the results of his spring collecting about the vicinity of New York.

Society adjourned.

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## THE MOTH BOOK.

*A Popular Guide to a Knowledge of the Moths of North America.*

By W. J. HOLLAND, D.D., Ph.D., Sc.D., LL.D. New York, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1903. Pp. xxiv + 479, pl. 48.

This fine and valuable book has appeared at last. We congratulate our friend, Dr. Holland, for his painstaking work, which without any question or doubt will gladden the hearts of all interested in the study of Lepidoptera. Although we do not quite agree with the nomenclature adopted by Dr. Holland and with the identification of some of the species, we express a hope that the edition will be exhausted soon and that the few shortcomings will be corrected in the second edition.

W. BEUTENMÜLLER.

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\* Prof. W. M. Wheeler informs us that this position in defending its nest is characteristic of *Formica rufa* and serves at once to distinguish it from other species of *Formica* which have similar coloration, size and nest architecture.—W. B.